



## Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan

### What is this project about?

Since 1968, the National Park Service has recognized the essential role fire plays as a natural process in ecosystems. Since 1970, Yosemite has had several fire management plans in an attempt to restore fire to its necessary role.

The *Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* updates the existing 12- year- old fire management plan and complies with the National Fire Policy. The plan proposes four alternatives for managing wildland and prescribed fire, with an overarching goal to improve the park's ability to restore areas to natural conditions while protecting life and property in developed areas and in locations with high visitor use.

---

### What is the range of alternatives?

#### Alternative A—No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the current fire management programs and activity level would continue. This alternative includes utilizing prescribed fire, managed wildland fire, fire suppression, and hand cutting followed by pile burning and prescribed fire. Currently ecosystem restoration goals and protection of developed areas are not accomplished at this level.

#### Alternative B—Aggressive Action

Under Alternative B, aggressive techniques, such as utilizing heavy machinery, would be used on less than 1% of the park's acreage to reduce the build- up of fuels in and near developed areas called Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, while accomplishing fire- related ecosystem restoration goals. Thinning and prescribed burning would be increased over existing levels and lightning fires would be allowed to burn where practicable. Fire would be the primary tool for reducing the buildup of fuels.

#### Alternative C—Passive Action

Under the Passive Action Alternative, efforts would be taken to decrease fuel build- up in developed areas of the park while accomplishing fire- related ecosystem restoration goals. In contrast to Alternative B, this would be done so over a longer period of time and use lighter machinery. Prescribed burning would be increased over existing levels, but not as much as under Alternative B. Managed wildland fire would be used as in Alternative B.

#### Alternative D—Multiple Action

Alternative D is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and uses a combination of aggressive and passive fuel reduction techniques in order to quickly and effectively achieve protection, fuel reduction, and ecosystem restoration goals. Under this alternative, prescribed fire and passive reduction techniques would be used in all areas to achieve ecosystem restoration goals and more aggressive treatment strategies would be used in developed areas if needed. Managed wildland fire would be used as in Alternative B.

---

## Why update the Fire Management Plan?

Updated fire management plans are needed to respond to the requirements of the 2001 Federal and the National Park Service Fire Management Policies. These policies state that every national park with burnable vegetation must update their existing fire plan. The *Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* presents alternatives for implementing national fire policy in Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site. At the same time, it will also propose adjustments in the fire management strategy to better accomplish resource management goals, protect the developed areas within the park, and provide for improved public and firefighter safety

---

## Public Participation

Public participation in the planning process is critical. The public comment period for the *Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan* closed on August 27, 2002. Currently, public comments received on the document are being analyzed and the preparation of the *Final Yosemite Fire Management Plan* will follow.

Here are some ways to stay involved in the *Fire Management Plan*:

- Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices.
- To request a copy of the *Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, contact the park (to address/fax/email below). It can also be viewed on the park's planning web site.

All comments must be submitted in writing to be considered and will be accepted in the following ways:

By mail:            Superintendent  
                         Attn: Fire Management Plan  
                         P.O. Box 577  
                         Yosemite, CA 95389

By fax:             209/379- 1294

By email:          yose\_planning@nps.gov

The status of this and other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online:  
[www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).